

June 21, 2010

Carolyn Biggins
Chief, Division of Transit Services
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 5th floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Biggins,

The City of Rockville requests that you consider adjusting the Ride-On Route 45 to include a stop on the Rockville campus of Montgomery College. The minor route adjustment would enhance accessibility to the campus and potentially increase ridership.

Route 45 currently travels north on Maryland Route 355 past the campus and left on College Parkway to serve several Rockville neighborhoods. Modifying Route 45 to include a stop at Montgomery College would enable residents who attend the College to conveniently ride between Rockville neighborhoods, the Rockville Metro station and the Montgomery College campus.

The need for this improved transit access became acute in February 2009 when the College removed access to the neighboring Plymouth Woods and College Gardens communities by closing an opening in the campus fence. The closure was intended to reduce student loitering in the neighborhood and increase campus security.

After 25 years of pedestrian access, the closure has disrupted neighbors' convenient access to both campus facilities and the Ride On buses that currently stop on campus. At this time, some pedestrians have to walk a mile or more to access campus, placing a significant burden on individuals with disabilities. Neighbors report that they would benefit from modifying Route 45 to include a stop at the Rockville campus that provides direct bus service from their neighborhoods to the campus. As the Montgomery College student population continues to grow, the importance of public transportation options to campus will also grow.

Thank you for your attention. We understand the time and effort involved in analyzing the routes, and appreciate your help to ensure convenient access to

Ride On services. Please contact Jennifer Kimball, Assistant City Manager, at 240-314-8104 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

The Rockville Mayor and Council